

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, a  
5 waveguide, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body, and a vacuum chamber, wherein a plasma is generated by an electromagnetic wave radiated from  
10 the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides, which are arranged in  
15 contact with each other;

the plasma processing apparatus includes an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for distributing the electromagnetic wave from the electromagnetic wave source into the plural waveguides;  
20 and

the electromagnetic wave radiation window constitutes a part of the wall of the vacuum chamber, and the vacuum condition is retained between the electromagnetic wave radiation window and the other  
25 wall of the vacuum chamber.

2. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave

source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an  
electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for  
transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected  
5 to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide  
and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electro-  
magnetic wave radiation window consisting of a  
dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots,  
10 and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave  
radiation window as an incident surface of the  
electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by  
the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into  
the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave  
15 radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being  
constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a  
plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
20 portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave  
generated from the electromagnetic wave source into  
each of the plural waveguides; and

each of the plural waveguides is branched from the  
electric field plane or the plane perpendicular to the  
25 magnetic field plane of the electromagnetic wave  
distributing waveguide portion.

3. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a

plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave  
source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an  
electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for  
transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
5 the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected  
to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide  
and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electro-  
magnetic wave radiation window consisting of a  
10 dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots,  
and a vacuum chamber arranged to include the  
electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident  
plane of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is  
generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the  
15 slots into the vacuum chamber through the electro-  
magnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing  
apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a  
plurality of the waveguides;

20 the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave  
generated from the electromagnetic wave source into  
each of the plural waveguides; and

the transmission direction of the electromagnetic  
25 wave is bent at substantially right angles in the  
electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion so  
as to permit the electromagnetic wave to be distributed

into the plural waveguides.

4. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an  
5 electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide  
10 and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of an dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber arranged to include the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident  
15 surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein the plasma processing apparatus is constructed such that:

a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window;

20 the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source into  
25 each of the plural waveguides;

each of the plural waveguides is branched from the electric field plane of the electromagnetic wave

distributing waveguide portion; and

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion and the plural waveguides are arranged on substantially the same plane.

5           5. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
10 the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a  
15 dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber arranged to include the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein the plasma processing apparatus is constructed such that:

20           a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window so as to carry out the plasma processing;

the plasma processing apparatus includes a  
25 plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave

generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the waveguides; and

the shortest distance between the inner surfaces of the adjacent waveguides is not larger than the width between the inner surfaces of the one waveguide.

6. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber arranged to include the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein the plasma processing apparatus is constructed such that:

a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window;

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave

generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

the plural waveguides are branched from the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion  
5 toward both side.

7. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the plural waveguides are branched at substantially right angles from the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion toward both sides.

10 8. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion and the plural waveguides are arranged on substantially the same plane.

9. The plasma processing apparatus according to  
15 claim 2, wherein a plurality of electromagnetic wave radiation windows are arranged such that the vacuum condition is maintained between the plural electromagnetic wave radiation windows and the vacuum chamber.

20 10. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of electromagnetic wave radiation windows are arranged such that the vacuum condition is maintained between the plural electromagnetic wave radiation windows and the vacuum  
25 chamber.

11. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a plurality of electromagnetic wave

radiation windows are arranged such that the vacuum condition is maintained between the plural electromagnetic wave radiation windows and the vacuum chamber.

5           12. A plasma processing apparatus, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic  
10 wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed in the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, and a vacuum chamber maintaining the vacuum condition, wherein the plasma  
15 processing apparatus is constructed such that:

          a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber;

          at least one waveguide is arranged in the vacuum chamber; and

20           a dielectric body member constituting a part of the wall surface of the vacuum chamber is formed in the said waveguide, the vacuum condition is maintained by a part of the wall of the waveguide, the dielectric body member, and another part of the vacuum chamber, and the  
25 electromagnetic wave is introduced into the vacuum chamber through the dielectric body member.

          13. The plasma processing apparatus according to



claim 12, wherein the dielectric body member fills substantially the entire volume within the waveguide.

14. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein the slots are distributed substantially

uniformly over the entire area that is to be subjected to the plasma processing.

15. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave  
5 source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
10 portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave  
15 radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being  
20 constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave  
25 generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein a plurality of the electromagnetic wave

radiation windows are hermetically arranged in a manner to correspond commonly to the plural slots, and the vacuum condition is maintained between the plural electromagnetic wave radiation windows and the vacuum chamber.

16. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave

generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

the electromagnetic wave radiation window substantially equal in width to the waveguide is  
5 arranged in a manner to correspond to each of the waveguides;

the major axis direction of the waveguide substantially coincides with that of the electromagnetic wave radiation window;

10 the length in the major axis direction of the waveguide substantially coincides with that of the electromagnetic wave radiation window; and

the period of the major axis of the waveguide substantially coincides with the that of the  
15 electromagnetic wave radiation window.

17. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the length in the major axis direction of the electromagnetic wave radiation window is shorter than that of the waveguide.

20 18. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
25 the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide

and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein the dielectric body member commonly in contact with at least one electromagnetic wave radiation window is arranged within the vacuum chamber.

19. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide

and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electro-  
magnetic wave radiation window consisting of a  
dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots,  
and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave  
5 radiation window as an incident surface of the  
electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by  
the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into  
the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave  
radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being  
10 constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a  
plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave  
15 generated from the electromagnetic wave source into  
each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein the beam body supporting each of the  
electromagnetic wave radiation windows on the side of  
the vacuum chamber is covered with the dielectric body  
20 member at least.

20. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a  
plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave  
source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an  
electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for  
25 transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected  
to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide

portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein a water cooling pipe for controlling the temperature is arranged within the beam body positioned between the adjacent electromagnetic wave radiation windows for supporting the electromagnetic wave radiation windows or in that portion of the beam body which is in contact with the waveguide.

21. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for

transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from  
the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected  
to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide  
5 and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electro-  
magnetic wave radiation window consisting of a  
dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots,  
and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave  
radiation window as an incident surface of the  
10 electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by  
the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into  
the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave  
radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being  
constructed such that:

15 the plasma processing apparatus includes a  
plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide  
portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave  
generated from the electromagnetic wave source into  
20 each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein a gas introducing pipe is formed within  
the vacuum chamber below the beam body positioned  
between the adjacent electromagnetic wave radiation  
windows for supporting the electromagnetic wave  
25 radiation windows or below that portion of the vacuum  
chamber which is in contact with the waveguide.

22. A plasma processing apparatus for performing a



plasma processing, comprising an electromagnetic wave source for generating an electromagnetic wave, an electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion for transmitting the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source, a waveguide connected to the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, a plurality of slots formed on the waveguide and constituting a waveguide antenna, an electromagnetic wave radiation window consisting of a dielectric body and arranged to face the plural slots, and a vacuum chamber including the electromagnetic wave radiation window as an incident surface of the electromagnetic wave, wherein a plasma is generated by the electromagnetic wave radiated from the slots into the vacuum chamber through the electromagnetic wave radiation window, the plasma processing apparatus being constructed such that:

the plasma processing apparatus includes a plurality of the waveguides;

the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion serves to distribute the electromagnetic wave generated from the electromagnetic wave source into each of the plural waveguides; and

wherein a gas introducing pipe is formed of a dielectric body within the vacuum chamber under the electromagnetic wave radiation windows or integrated the electromagnetic wave radiation windows.

23. The plasma processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the slot is formed in the electromagnetic wave distributing waveguide portion, too.